

It would be pretty hard to have to take a new hand just now and I guess the scamp knows it. Saturday Uncle seemed to improve a little and yesterday when Ben Hornes and L. Alb. were up he seemed glad to see them and held their hands and seemed to want to say something. Still the Doctors do not seem to ^{take} any encouragement. He is no better about involuntary discharges, indeed not so conscious. All discharges are involuntary and Auntie says he does not seem annoyed about it afterwards as he did at first. It seems to me that is a very bad symptom.

He can eat a little crackers and rice some days, others nothing, still his strength is not so utterly gone as one would expect. He has herb tea one meal regularly. Aunt Jennie is hardly able to be about. Has been sick in bed some of the time. Mrs. Thompson gives her electricity every day and spends a great deal of time rubbing her etc. I live in terror lest she

I should leave. What would become of us then I don't know. However it is no use to cross a river till you come to it.

What sad news from Q. of the sudden deaths of Mrs. Bacon, Mr. Kellogg and Mrs. Smart (mother of one of Mattie's friends). If I had been one of the nervous sort

I should have been scared into pneumonia. I believe I had been having some slight, very slight twinges about the chest and watching my self very carefully when the news came. Was I not thankful that I was not nervous and could not be scared into anything.

I don't feel as if I knew any thing about you or what you were doing, and I should not wonder if you had something of the same feeling, it takes so long to hear. It is really wonderful that things can remain in just the same condition day after day but they seem to do so, with the exception of one or two days last week. Friday

Uncle was worse than he has been at all. That day Sam and two other chimaere came up to see him. Sam brought a beautiful bouquet, but he showed not the slightest pleasure and did not offer to shake hands. It was very hard for Auntie and I thought it a pity they came

as it gave him no pleasure and
her much pain. Suak took a
funny streak and was very un-
willing to wait on them about
lunch. We had part of us taken
lunch in the kitchen as I did
not know exactly how Wash
would feel about being seated
at the table with chinamen
(not but what they are enough
cleaner and more decent than
he is) and I did not care to have
him talking round the neigh-
-borhood about it. Then I meant
to set the table in dining room
for Auntie, Eddie and Nettie
and the chinamen, but when
I told Suak to do so he objected
and was so evidently stubborn
that I gave up and took them
all in the kitchen to eat. I am
not at all sure but Suak will
get ahead of me if things remain
as they are much longer. It

So Lizzy & Gill has left Aunt's
20 L. M. is left there alone with
13. H. Not a pleasant position
for her but there seems to
be no help for it. Ed said
you told him to tell me that
Rhoda was not going to keep
boarders any more. So that
all the message you gave him
What is she going to do. Commit
matrimony or take Miss
Whitcomb's position
Charlie is as bad about
writing as you. I have not
had a line from him for
well I guess he's worse
for I don't think he had
written for two weeks.
I forgot your tooth powder
boxes. Will send one by
mail if you say so, or by
Ed. if he goes down again.
Aunt Jennie gave me a
20. this morning and said
she should not feel happy
at all if I did not take pay
for Miss. I heard. She really
seemed to feel so and as our
expenses are so heavy now I
thought perhaps I should be doing
wrong not to take it. So I shall
be able to keep the meat bill
paid at least. Love to Miss
Baltan Miss Barry and Rhoda
Tell her I say whatever she is going to do I

I have a letter from Uncle Dennis
which I enclose. You see I am
properly punished for joking across
the continent. You know E.
asked me if I did not wish my
name was black, after telling
about the old chairs, and I
replied that it was as near black
as Sue Tichenor's was. It did
not occur to me till after the
letter was gone that it would
be taken to, or rather might
be taken to mean that I was
envious, which I was not.

Tuesday morn. I was so sure
of a letter today from you. I
know you have a great deal
to do, more than you ought
and I should not grumble at
short letters but it is pretty
hard to bear when I don't have
at all. I do feel anxious
about you this ~~very~~ cold
damp weather. A letter
from the City today says Baby
Sue has a very bad cold and
they are afraid of croup. Nellie
very poorly. A new Doctor
talks of suggested liver as
cause of trouble. Aunt Jane
don't seem to have faith.

Elias Gill and his children
and the Bacon children
are to keep house together.



I put in a little
bag 1/2 doz. of those
hickory nuts that you
brought and some
cork seed give
them to Mr. Ellis
please.

Wood Jan. 28
1880

Mrs M. W. Shinn
Berkeley.